

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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TAGS: PBOR, SGEN, MX

SUBJECT: UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY OF US TREATMENT OF MEXICANS
ILLEGALLY IN US

REF: MEXICO 9826

1. THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH SHOULD PROVE USEFUL IN REFUTING THE CHARGES MADE BY ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ HERNANDEZ, COORDINATOR OF CHICANO MOVEMENT, CASA, THAT WERE CARRIED BY THE MEXICAN DAILIES ON JULY 28.

QUOTE:

A) IN FY 1976, THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS) APPREHENDED 866,433 DEPORTABLE ALIENS OF WHICH 788,442 (90) WERE OF MEXICAN NATIONALITY. OF THE LATTER FIGURE, 757,352 (97) WERE UNDOCUMENTED AND ENTERED THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT INSPECTION. ADDITIONALLY, 729,202 OF THE ILLEGAL MEXICAN ALIENS WERE EMPLOYED OR WERE SEEKING
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EMPLOYMENT WHEN APPREHENDED. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT ILLEGAL

MEXICAN ALIENS ARE EMPLOYED BY SOME U.S. EMPLOYERS, THERE IS NO DATA AVAILABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE CHARGE THAT THESE EMPLOYERS REPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS WHEN THEY ARE NO LONGER

NEEDED. IT IS INS POLICY TO INSURE THAT EACH ILLEGAL ALIEN RECEIVES THE WAGES DUE AT TIME OF APPREHENSION. ANY QUESTION OF AN ILLEGAL MEXICAN ALIEN'S WAGES BEING WITHHELD BY AN EMPLOYER IS REFERRED TO THE LOCAL MEXICAN CONSUL.

B) THERE IS NO TRUTH TO THE CHARGE THAT ILLEGAL MEXICANS ARE TREATED INHUMANELY. INS STAGING CENTERS AT CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA; EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA; EL PASO, TEXAS; AND PORT ISABEL, TEXAS, HAVE ADEQUATE SANITARY FACILITIES, SERVE NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND ARE VISITED ALMOST DAILY BY MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS. THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY AT AN INS STAGING CENTER IS LESS THAN 24 HOURS. INS POLICY ALSO PROHIBITS THE SEPARATION OF FAMILY GROUPS. NORMALLY, FAMILY GROUPS ARE RELEASED ON THEIR OWN RECOGNIZANCE TO DEPART TO MEXICO, IF THEY ARE FINANCIALLY ABLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS. OTHERWISE, THEY ARE GRANTED VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE AND RETURNED TO MEXICO IN A GROUP AT INS EXPENSE. AIR TRANSPORTATION TO MEXICO IS IN AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATED BY THE APPROPRIATE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OF MEXICO OR THE UNITED STATES.

C) INS IS COOPERATING WITH INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO IMPROVE FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAW COMPLIANCE BY APPREHENDED ILLEGAL ALIENS. UNDER THE PRESENT PROGRAM, ANY ILLEGAL ALIEN APPREHENDED BY INS WHO HAS IN HIS POSSESSION IN EXCESS OF \$200, IS REPORTED TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FOR DETERMINATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE ALIEN IS LIABLE FOR INCOME TAX PAYMENT ON WAGES EARNED WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES.

D) CONTRARY TO STATEMENT MADE AT RODRIGUEZ' PRESS CONFERENCE, VARIOUS SOURCES INDICATE THERE ARE EXPENDITURES BY STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SCHOOLING, WELFARE, AND MEDICAL SERVICES FURNISHED ALIENS ILLEGALLY IN THE UNITED STATES. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH SERVICES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BASED ON EXISTING STATUTES.

E) IN FY 1976 INS RETURNED 747,132 ILLEGAL ALIENS TO MEXICO, OF WHICH 46,309 OR 6 WERE REMOVED TO THE INTERIOR BY BUS, TRAIN, OR AIRCRAFT. IN COMPARISON, DURING FY 1966 INS RETURNED 87,700 ILLEGAL ALIENS TO MEXICO, OF WHICH JUST UNDER 50,000 OR 54 WERE REMOVED TO THE INTERIOR.

F) INS SUPPORTS PASSAGE OF THE EASTLAND, RODINO OR
SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDE SANCTIONS AGAINST EM-
PLOYERS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS OF ALL NATIONALITIES, AS MEANS

TO REDUCE INCENTIVES FOR ALIENS TO COME HERE ILLEGALLY TO
SEEK EMPLOYMENT. SUCH LEGISLATION IS NOT CONSIDERED AS
RACIST OR PREJUDICIAL TO HISPANIC-AMERICANS OR TO ANY
ETHNIC GROUP.

G) THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO TRUTH TO THE ACCUSATION THAT
MEXICAN WOMEN ILLEGALLY IN U.S. ARE FORCED TO BE STERILIZED
IF THEY GIVE BIRTH IN A U.S. HOSPITAL.

END QUOTE. ROBINSON

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